

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 H-02 SR-02 ORM-01

VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 AID-05 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /070 W

----- 013140

R 141430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8722

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT TRAN VAN DON

PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

REFS: A. STATE 104017 B. ATHENS 3461 (NOTAL)

1. TRAN VAN DON HAS BEEN RVN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HERE SINCE JANUARY 1975 (AMBASSADOR WAS RESIDENT ROME). PREVIOUSLY, SINCE 1969, HE HAS ASSIGNED TO PARIS AS A MEMBER OF THE RVN DELEGATION. HE ENTERED THE SVN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1964 AND IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE RVN AND WILL THEREFORE NOT RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. IN VIEW OF HIS PREVIOUS SERVICE IN PARIS AND TIES WITH FRANCE, WHERE HE WENT TO UNIVERSITY AND HAS RELATIVES, HE PLANS, INITIALLY AT LEAST, TO GO TO FRANCE. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS OLDER BROTHER, GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN TO FORT CHAFFEE AT FIRST, IS NOW IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TRAN VAN DON HOPES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO OBTAIN A VISITOR'S VISA IN ORDER TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH HIS BROTHER ABOUT HIS FUTURE.

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TRAN VAN DON WOULD LEAVE HIS FAMILY (WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN,

AND ALSO HIS MOTHER) IN PARIS DURING THIS PERIOD WITH  
ANOTHER BROTHER OR HIS WIFE'S RELATIVES.

3. TRAN VAN DON CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS ON MAY 13 AND ASKED WHETHER GOG  
WOULD GIVE HIM ASYLUM HERE. TZOUNIS TOLD HIM IT WAS  
NOT THE PRACTICE OF THE GOG TO GRANT ASYLUM FORMALLY BUT  
THAT TRAN VAN DON AND HIS FAMILY WERE WELCOME TO STAY FOR  
ONE OR TWO MONTHS. IN ADDITION, TRAN VAN DON ALSO  
APPROACHED THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNHCR IN ATHENS  
FOR ASSISTANCE, ADVISING HIM HE WOULD BE GOING TO FRANCE.  
LATTER GAVE HIM INFORMATION ABOUT WHOM TO CONTACT IN  
PARIS FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. TRAN VAN DON PLANS TO CLOSE THE EMBASSY AND TURN IT  
OVER TO THE GREEK MFA ON MAY 2#AND WILL THEN DEPART FOR  
PARIS WITH HIS FAMILY. (HE IS DELAYING HIS DEPARTURE UNTIL  
NEXT WEEK IN EXPECTATION THAT LICENSE UNBLOCKING CHECK  
MENTIONED REF B WILL BE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN EXPRESS BY  
THEN.) HE WAS INFORMED BY TZOUNIS THAT THE NEW SAIGON  
GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ADVISED THE GOG THAT THE EMBASSY  
BE TURNED OVER TO THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY, WHICH WILL  
REPRESENT ITS INTERESTS HERE, AND GOG PLANS TO DO SO.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE CAN BE GIVEN  
TRAN VAN DON IN PARIS, WHERE HE WILL BE CALLING ON THE  
EMBASSY TO APPLY FOR A VISA, AND IN FACILITATING HIS  
TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH HIS BROTHER.

KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**TAGS:** SREF, VS, (TRAN VAN DON)  
**To:** STATE PARIS  
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